

THE EXTERNAL PARASITES OF THE DINGO

(CANIS DINGO Blum.).

BY THOS. STEEL, F.L.S.

Any information regarding the parasites infesting the above animal may be of assistance in discussing the question of its origin.

In Proc. Roy. Soc. Queensland, xxviii., p.96, 1916, Dr. T. Harvey Johnston has a valuable paper dealing with the endoparasites; but, so far as I am aware, nothing has been published on the external parasites. Mr. R. Etheridge has dealt historically, and from the palæontological view-point, with the origin of the dingo, in a very able paper,* in which is included a most comprehensive bibliography.

In the year 1883, while resident on the Tweed River, N.S.W., I got a fresh specimen of a full-grown, pure-bred male dingo, which was poisoned through eating a bush rat which, in turn, had taken a strychnine-bait. I collected the external parasites, which have been in my possession ever since. Recently I submitted the fleas to the Hon. N. C. Rothschild, and the other parasites to Dr. T. H. Johnston; and, from these gentlemen, I have received the result of their examination, which I now desire to place on record.

The fleas proved to be *Utenocephalus felis* and *C. canis*, the species commonly occurring on the domestic cat and dog, no others being present. The other parasites consisted of a larval tick, and a louse. Dr. Johnston reports that the larval tick is apparently a new species, near *Ixodes holocyclus*; and that the louse appears to be *Trichodectus latus*, or a nearly related species. *I. holocyclus*, Dr. Johnston informs me, has, in Australia, been found on man, cat, dog, cattle, horse, marsupials, and perhaps reptiles; and he considers that the specimens under review belong to a related species. *T. latus* is not common in Australia; it has been recorded from the dog (Sydney) by Johnston and Harrison, in 1912. On the dingo, I found a considerable number, about two dozen, but I did not get all that were present.

* Memoirs Geol. Survey N. S. Wales. Ethnological Series, No.2, 1916.